

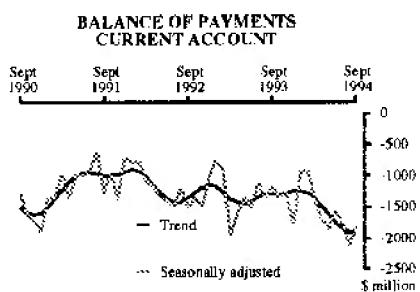
Statistics Weekly

Thursday, 3 November 1994

The week in statistics ...

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Current account deficit — trend up, seasonally adjusted down



The provisional trend estimate for the September 1994 current account deficit was \$1 923 million, up \$26 million, or 1 per cent, on the corresponding August estimate.

On a seasonally adjusted basis, Australia's current account deficit for September 1994 fell \$304 million (14%) to \$1 809 million. The decrease in the seasonally adjusted deficit was caused by:

- a decrease of \$421 million (48%) in the merchandise trade deficit (merchandise exports fell 1 per cent, while merchandise imports fell 7%); and
- a decrease of \$34 million (32%) in the net services deficit.

Partly offsetting these movements in merchandise trade and services was an increase of \$83 million (7%) in the net income deficit; and a turnaround of \$68 million from a surplus to a deficit, in the net unrequited transfers balance.

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS, CURRENT ACCOUNT
\$ million

| | August 1994 | | September 1994 | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|---------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| | Original | Seasonally adjusted | Original | Seasonally adjusted |
| Balance on merchandise trade | -1 394 | -873 | -772 | -452 |
| Net services | -188 | -107 | -387 | -73 |
| <i>Balance on goods and services</i> | -1 582 | -980 | -1 159 | -525 |
| Net income | -1 174 | -1 173 | -1 286 | -1 256 |
| Net unrequited transfers | 73 | 40 | 11 | -28 |
| <i>Balance on current account</i> | -2 683 | -2 113 | -2 434 | -1 809 |

In original terms, merchandise exports fell \$9 million, to \$5 289 million. Rural exports, in original terms, fell \$11 million, or 1 per cent, to \$1 545 million. Decreases were recorded in:

- cereals, down \$56 million or 20 per cent (due mainly to decreased exports of wheat and barley);
- sugar, down \$50 million or 22 per cent (due mainly to decreased volumes of cane sugar exports); and
- 'other' rural exports, down \$22 million or 4 per cent.

These decreases were largely offset by increases in wool, up \$83 million or 38 per cent (due mainly to increased volumes of greasy wool exports); and meat, up \$34 million or 12 per cent (due mainly to increased volumes).

Non-rural exports, in original terms, rose \$2 million to \$3 744 million. The most significant increases were recorded in:

- metal ores and minerals, up \$93 million or 17 per cent (due mainly to increased exports of alumina, iron ore and nickel oxide sinters);
- 'other' non-rural, up \$57 million or 50 per cent; and
- machinery, up \$48 million or 10 per cent.

These increases were almost entirely offset by decreases in gold, down \$104 million or 26 per cent (due mainly to decreased volumes of exports); 'other' mineral fuels, down \$72 million or 19 per cent; and coal, coke and briquettes, down \$68 million or 12 per cent (due mainly to decreased volumes).

In original terms, merchandise imports fell \$631 million, or 9 per cent, to \$6 061 million.

Imports of consumption goods, in original terms, fell \$16 million, or 1 per cent, to \$1 711 million. Decreases were recorded in:

- consumption goods nes, down \$27 million or 6 per cent;
- textiles, clothing and footwear, down \$26 million or 10 per cent; and
- toys, books and leisure goods, down \$24 million or 9 per cent.

The largest increase was recorded in non-industrial transport equipment, up \$48 million or 13 per cent (due mainly to increased imports of passenger motor cars).

Imports of capital goods, in original terms, fell \$351 million, or 20 per cent, to \$1 388 million. Decreases were recorded in:

- civil aircraft, down \$243 million or 95 per cent on the August figure which included two Qantas aircraft valued at \$248 million;
- machinery and industrial equipment, down \$69 million or 10 per cent;
- industrial transport equipment nes, down \$42 million or 21 per cent; and
- capital goods nes, down \$35 million or 16 per cent.

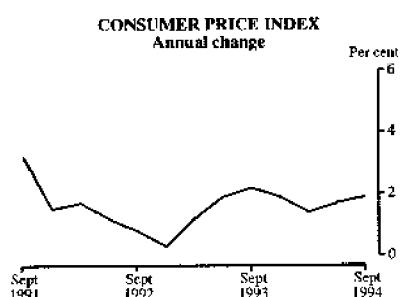
The only significant increase was recorded in ADP equipment, up \$33 million or 14 per cent.

Imports of intermediate and other goods, in original terms, fell \$264 million, or 8 per cent, to \$2 962 million. Decreases were recorded in all groups, except non-monetary gold, which rose \$6 million or 11 per cent. The largest decreases were recorded in:

- 'other' goods, down \$54 million or 68 per cent (due mainly to decreased imports of military equipment);
- processed industrial supplies nes, down \$45 million or 6 per cent; and
- organic and inorganic chemicals, down \$43 million or 22 per cent.

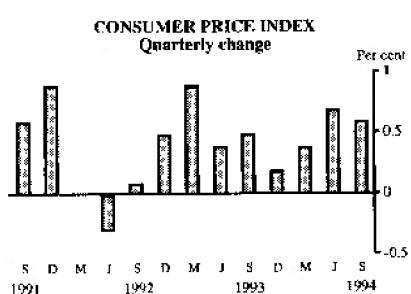
For further information, order the publication Balance of Payments, Australia (5301.0), or contact either Neil Batty on (06) 252 6689 or Graeme Groves on (06) 252 5540.

Annual CPI rise stays below two per cent



The Consumer Price Index increased 0.6 per cent between the June and September quarters 1994, resulting in an annual increase (September quarter 1994 on September quarter 1993) of 1.9 per cent.

Contributing most to the overall increase this quarter were fresh fruit prices (up 14.7%), hospital and medical services (up 2.4%), motor vehicles (up 1.8%), the cost of vehicle insurance (up 3.3%), mortgage interest charges (up 1.0% — due to an increase in the value of the debt outstanding), the cost of vehicle servicing repairs and parts (up 1.1%), petrol (up 0.6%), entertainment (up 1.1%) and the price of beer (up 0.7%).



Partially offsetting those rises were falls in the cost of child care fees (down 5.1%), the price of sports and photographic equipment and toys (down 1.5%), furniture prices (down 0.6%), and the cost of overseas holiday travel and accommodation (down 1.8%).

Contributing most to the 1.9 per cent annual increase in consumer prices were hospital and medical services (up 7.3%), cigarette and tobacco prices (up 7.6%), vehicle insurance (up 10.4%), fresh fruit (up 20.7%) and furniture prices (up 3.9%), with significant off-sets being provided by mortgage interest charges (down 3.2%), consumer credit charges (down 7.0%) and prices of takeaway food (down 3.7%).

If the housing group were excluded from the index, it would still show a rise of 0.6 per cent in the September quarter, but the annual increase would be 2.2 per cent.

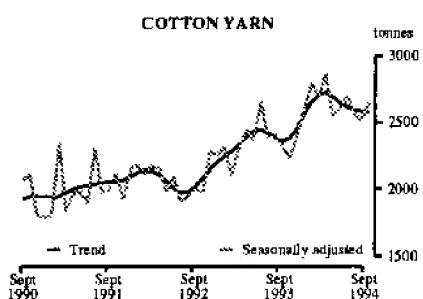
On the other hand, if the tobacco and alcohol group were excluded, the annual increase would fall to 1.7 per cent. (The September quarter increase would again be 0.6 per cent.)

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1994

Weighted average of eight capital cities
Percentage change

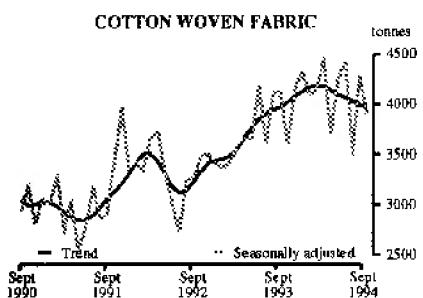
| | From previous quarter | From corresponding quarter of previous year |
|---|-----------------------|---|
| Health and personal care | 1.1 | 5.5 |
| Tobacco and alcohol | 0.9 | 5.0 |
| Transportation | 1.6 | 3.4 |
| Recreation and education | -0.1 | 2.0 |
| Food | 0.8 | 1.5 |
| Household equipment and operation | 0.0 | 0.7 |
| Housing | 0.5 | 0.0 |
| Clothing | 0.2 | -0.5 |
| <i>All groups</i> | 0.6 | 1.9 |
| <i>All groups excluding housing</i> | 0.6 | 2.2 |
| <i>All groups excluding tobacco and alcohol</i> | 0.6 | 1.7 |

Most manufacturing shows rising production trend



The monthly publication *Manufacturing Production, Australia, Preliminary* (8301.0) contains time series data on the production of thirty-nine major indicators of production (nineteen with up-to-date trend estimates for monthly series and eight quarterly series with trend estimates to the June quarter). The indicator commodities have been selected to give a broad industry representation of the manufacturing sector.

The two comparisons shown below should be read together to indicate both longer term trends and current trend direction. Reference should also be made to more detailed data presented in the monthly publication.



MANUFACTURING PRODUCTION, SEPTEMBER 1994

Percentage change in trend

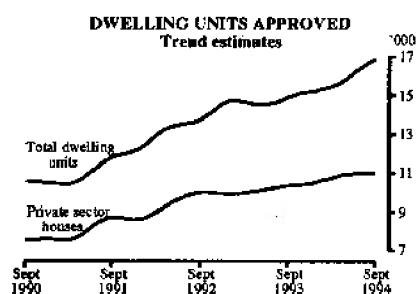
| Product | From previous month | From corresponding month of previous year |
|--|---------------------|---|
| Wool yarn | -1.3 | 22.4 |
| Electric motors | -1.0 | 23.4 |
| Portland cement | 2.3 | 18.2 |
| Particle board and similar boards | 1.1 | 15.5 |
| Cigarettes and tobacco | 2.8 | 11.5 |
| Other confectionery | 2.2 | 11.3 |
| Plastics in primary forms | -0.2 | 10.7 |
| Basic iron, spiegeleisen and sponge iron | -2.0 | 10.6 |
| Cotton yarn | -0.4 | 9.2 |
| Gas available for issue through mains | 0.8 | 9.1 |
| Cars and station wagons | 1.8 | 7.2 |
| Woven wool fabric (including blanketing) | -0.4 | 7.2 |
| Woven man-made fibre fabric | 1.3 | 6.2 |
| Blooms and slabs | -2.5 | 6.0 |
| Textile floor coverings | -2.0 | 5.5 |
| Clay bricks | 0.7 | 4.7 |
| Chocolate based confectionery | 3.0 | 1.9 |
| Electricity | 0.4 | 0.2 |
| Domestic clothes washing machines | 0.0 | -4.9 |

JUNE QUARTER 1994

Percentage change in trend

| | From previous quarter | From corresponding quarter of previous year |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|---|
| Silver | -1.0 | 15.6 |
| Copper | 5.7 | 14.7 |
| Undressed sawn timber | 2.2 | 13.1 |
| Tin | 22.0 | 9.1 |
| Lead | -3.2 | 9.1 |
| Gold | 0.9 | 5.4 |
| Zinc | 0.6 | 2.5 |
| Alumina | 0.9 | 2.1 |

Building approvals trend up, but private sector houses level out



The provisional trend for the total number of dwelling units approved remained at historically high levels to September 1994 despite a fall of 3.3 per cent in the seasonally adjusted series. The trend rose by 1.3 per cent in September to 16,870, following rises of 1.6 per cent in August and 1.7 per cent in July 1994. There would need to be a decline of 6 per cent in the seasonally adjusted number of dwelling units approved in October 1994 for the trend growth to level off. The historical average monthly movement for this series is 4 per cent.

The provisional trend for the number of private sector houses approved has levelled out in September 1994. There would need to be an increase of 3 per cent in October for the trend growth to resume. A fall in the seasonally adjusted series in October of 4 per cent (equivalent to the historical average monthly movement), would see the trend revised to show a decline from July 1994 onwards.

DWELLING UNITS APPROVED, SEPTEMBER 1994
Percentage change

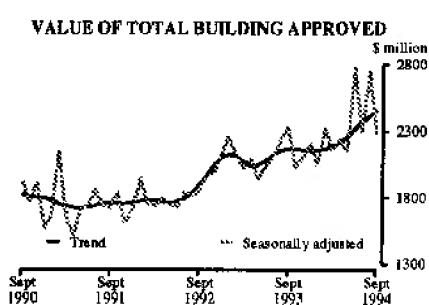
| | Number | From previous month | From corresponding month of previous year |
|-----------------------|--------|---------------------|---|
| Private sector houses | | | |
| Trend estimate | 10 987 | 0.0 | 6.3 |
| Seasonally adjusted | 10 841 | -4.3 | 3.8 |
| Original | 11 547 | -4.7 | 3.5 |
| Total dwelling units | | | |
| Trend estimate | 16 870 | 1.3 | 13.2 |
| Seasonally adjusted | 16 876 | -3.3 | 12.7 |
| Original | 17 428 | -7.5 | 10.1 |

In seasonally adjusted terms, the total number of dwelling units approved fell by 3.3 per cent in September 1994 to 16,876. This was second only to the 17,451 dwelling units approved in August 1994 as the highest number of monthly dwelling units approved on record. The number of private sector house approvals fell by 4.3 per cent to 10,841.

Value of building approved

The provisional trend estimate for the value of total building approved rose by 1.9 per cent in September 1994, following similar growth in August and growth of 2.3 per cent in July 1994. However, the trend will flatten out unless there is a rise in the seasonally adjusted series of at least 1.4 per cent in October 1994. The historical average monthly movement of this series is 9 per cent.

The provisional trend series for the value of new residential building approved rose by 2.5 per cent in September, following growth of over 3 per cent in August and July 1994. The trend will continue to show growth unless there is a fall of nearly 12 per cent in the seasonally adjusted series in October 1994. The historical average monthly movement of this series is 4 per cent.



The provisional trend estimates for the value of non-residential building approved rose by 1.3 per cent in September 1994. However, unless there is an increase of 21 per cent in the seasonally adjusted series in October 1994, the trend will begin to decline. Users are reminded of the extreme volatility of this series. To illustrate this point, the actual month to month movement in the seasonally adjusted series, regardless of sign, has been greater than the historical average monthly movement of this series (18%), in four of the last five months.

VALUE OF BUILDING APPROVED, SEPTEMBER 1994
Percentage change

| | \$ million | From previous month | From corresponding month of previous year |
|--------------------------|------------|---------------------|---|
| New residential building | | | |
| Trend estimate | 1 576.5 | 2.5 | 26.7 |
| Seasonally adjusted | 1 551.0 | -8.4 | 21.6 |
| Original | 1 591.5 | -11.7 | 19.0 |
| Non-residential building | | | |
| Trend estimate | 666.0 | 1.3 | -9.2 |
| Seasonally adjusted | 566.0 | -29.6 | -40.9 |
| Original | 563.6 | -35.2 | -38.9 |
| Total building | | | |
| Trend estimate | 2 459.2 | 1.9 | 13.4 |
| Seasonally adjusted | 2 268.6 | -17.6 | -2.9 |
| Original | 2 413.0 | -17.2 | -2.9 |

For further information, order the publication *Building Approvals, Australia (8731.0)*, or contact Paul Seville on (06) 252 6067.

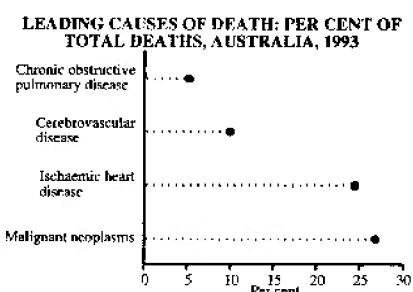
Death rates down while cancer still main cause of death

Cancer remained the leading cause of death in Australia last year, as the death rate from ischaemic heart disease continued the steady decline which began in the mid-1980s.

The standardised death rate for ischaemic heart disease has fallen from 220 per 100,000 of the population in 1984 to 162 in 1993. The death rate from malignant neoplasms (cancer) has remained virtually steady over the same period, and stood at 180 per 100,000 in 1993.

The actual number of deaths caused by cancer last year was 32,691, including 18,479 males and 14,212 females. This represented 26.9 per cent of the total of 121,594 registered deaths in the year — a slightly higher proportion of the total than in 1992.

There were 29,759 deaths in 1993 from ischaemic heart disease. The proportion of all deaths was 24.5 per cent, down slightly from the previous year.



There was little significant change in the relative importance of the other leading causes of death. Among them, stroke (cerebrovascular disease) accounted for 12,137 or 10 per cent of all deaths and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (and allied conditions) accounted for 5.2 per cent.

There were 7,020 deaths due to external causes such as suicide, traffic accidents, drowning and homicide, accounting for approximately six per cent of all deaths. The main types of death from external causes were suicides (2,081) and traffic accidents (1,956). Deaths in both these categories have been declining in recent years.

Accidents were the leading cause of death in both the 1-14 years age group (40% of deaths) and the 15-24 age group (46% of deaths).

There appears to be some slowing in the national rate of increase in AIDS-related deaths. There were 718 such deaths in 1993, of which 580 were directly attributable to AIDS and 138 had the disease mentioned on the death certificate. The total was an increase of 75 on 1992. The number of AIDS-related deaths among females increased by 7 to 29.

STANDARDISED DEATH RATES OF AIDS-RELATED DEATHS, BY STATE OF USUAL RESIDENCE, PERSONS

| Year | NSW | Vic. | Qld | SA | WA | Tas. | NT | ACT | Aust. |
|------|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-------|
| 1989 | 4.0 | 2.0 | 1.4 | 0.9 | 1.3 | 0.7 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 2.4 |
| 1990 | 5.4 | 2.2 | 1.8 | 1.5 | 1.6 | 0.4 | 0.6 | 2.6 | 3.1 |
| 1991 | 5.8 | 2.9 | 1.7 | 1.5 | 2.0 | 0.6 | 2.6 | 1.6 | 3.4 |
| 1992 | 5.8 | 3.5 | 1.9 | 2.0 | 2.1 | 1.1 | 1.7 | 2.4 | 3.7 |
| 1993 | 6.6 | 3.4 | 2.6 | 2.3 | 1.9 | 1.3 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 4.0 |

Overall, the 121,594 deaths registered in Australia in 1993 represented a crude death rate of 688 per 100,000 population, slightly down on the 1992 rate. After standardising for age, the death rate for 1993 was 663, compared with 695 in 1992.

Among the leading causes of death, male death rates exceeded those of females in all categories except stroke, where the ratio of male to female death rates was 0.7. For ischaemic heart disease, the male death rate was more than four times the female rate in both the 25-44 years and 44-54 years age groups.

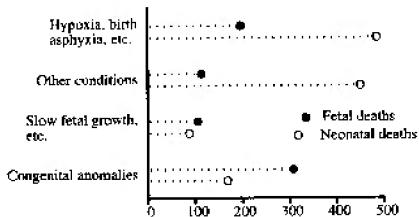
For further information, order the publication Causes of Death, Australia, 1993 (3303.0) or contact Peter Burke on (07) 222 6069.

Big decline in infant mortality

There was a large 15 per cent decrease in the number of perinatal deaths recorded in Australia in 1993, the figure being 2,131 compared with 2,508 in the previous year.

The overall perinatal death rate was 8.2 per 1,000 births in 1993, the lowest rate on record. This rate has declined from 11.9 per 1,000 over the last decade.

PERINATAL DEATHS: MAIN CONDITION IN FETUS/INFANT, AUSTRALIA, 1993



While the perinatal death rate declined for all maternal age groups, a feature of the statistics was a dramatic fall in the rate for mothers aged 40 and over. This rate fell from 15.4 in 1992 to 10.6 in 1993 — again the lowest rate on record. Mothers aged 20 and under had the highest perinatal death rate at 11.6 per 1,000 births, while those aged 30 to 34 had the lowest at 7.1 per 1,000 births.

The total number of perinatal deaths registered last year comprised 1,245 stillbirths and 886 deaths within 28 days of birth. Some 55 per cent of all these deaths involved children who weighed less than two kilograms at birth (and within that figure, 60% weighed less than one kilogram).

The main cause of perinatal deaths for 1993 was the category 'hypoxia, birth asphyxia and other respiratory conditions'. However, the 686 deaths from this cause was a big 24 per cent decrease on the number registered in 1992.

Overall, perinatal deaths of males exceeded those of females by a ratio of 124 to 100, compared with a live birth rate for the year of 105 males to 100 females, but the death rates for males (8.8 per thousand) and females (7.5 per thousand) were both down to the lowest on record.

A regional breakdown of the statistics shows that the perinatal death rate declined everywhere except in Tasmania and the Northern Territory. The Northern Territory rate of 19.3 per 1,000 was up from 17.0 in 1992 and remains easily the highest rate in Australia. Tasmania moved above both New South Wales and Queensland to become the State with the second highest perinatal death rate, its rate rising from 9.1 per 1,000 in 1992 to 9.5 per 1,000 in 1993 (see table).

The actual number of perinatal deaths in New South Wales fell dramatically from 991 in 1992 to 766 in 1993, thus accounting for a large proportion of the overall decline in the number of deaths.

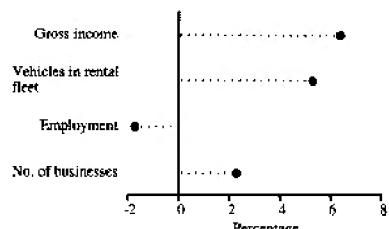
PERINATAL DEATH RATES BY STATE OR TERRITORY OF USUAL RESIDENCE OF MOTHER

| Year | NSW | Vic. | Qld | SA | WA | Tas. | NT | ACT | Aust. |
|------|------|------|------|------|-----|------|------|------|-------|
| 1988 | 11.1 | 10.1 | 10.6 | 10.0 | 9.0 | 13.0 | 19.9 | 11.0 | 10.7 |
| 1989 | 10.3 | 9.3 | 9.7 | 10.1 | 8.8 | 11.0 | 21.1 | 9.6 | 9.9 |
| 1990 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 9.3 | 10.2 | 9.3 | 10.0 | 17.0 | 12.0 | 10.3 |
| 1991 | 10.0 | 8.8 | 10.3 | 8.0 | 8.8 | 11.9 | 16.8 | 10.5 | 9.6 |
| 1992 | 10.6 | 8.2 | 9.3 | 8.1 | 8.7 | 9.1 | 17.0 | 9.0 | 9.4 |
| 1993 | 8.5 | 7.5 | 8.1 | 7.6 | 7.3 | 9.5 | 19.3 | 7.2 | 8.2 |

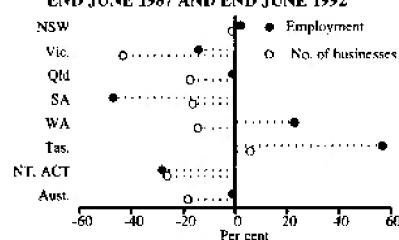
For further information, order the publication Perinatal Deaths, Australia, 1993 (3304.0), or contact Coleen Hayes on (07) 222 6050.

Motor vehicle hire industry struggled through 1991–92

**MAJOR VARIABLES, PERCENTAGE CHANGE
BETWEEN 1986-87 AND 1991-92**



**NUMBER OF BUSINESSES AND EMPLOYMENT
BY STATE, PERCENTAGE CHANGE BETWEEN
END JUNE 1987 AND END JUNE 1992**



During 1991–92, only 59 per cent of businesses in the motor vehicle hire industry reported operating profits before tax. Over one-third of businesses reported losses.

Concentration statistics showed that four businesses dominated. The four largest businesses accounted for 47 per cent of the total fleet of vehicles, 51 per cent of employment and 60 per cent of wages and salaries. They also incurred a loss of almost \$17 million.

Although only small, the motor vehicle hire industry in Australia generated \$470.3 million dollars in income and employed 3,016 persons in 1991–92.

At the end of June 1992, the 222 motor vehicle hire businesses had a total of 23,304 vehicles in their rental fleets. There were 224 rental-days per vehicle during 1991–92; each vehicle generated income for only 61 per cent of the year.

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

| Item | Unit | 1986-87 | 1991-92 | Percentage change |
|----------------------------------|------|---------|---------|-------------------|
| Businesses at end June | no. | 217 | 222 | 2.3 |
| Employment | no. | 3 071 | 3 016 | -1.8 |
| Vehicles | no. | 22 132 | 23 304 | 5.3 |
| Total operating income | \$m | 408.2 | 458.1 | 12.2 |
| Earnings before interest and tax | \$m | n.a. | 41.3 | .. |
| Operating profit before tax | \$m | n.a. | -7.1 | .. |
| Operating profit margin | % | n.a. | -1.5 | .. |

Males accounted for 52 per cent of all persons working in the motor vehicle hire industry during 1991–92. Casual employees comprised 20 per cent of employment, and a majority (69%) of casual employees worked on a part-time basis. Fifty-three per cent of casual employees were males.

Between June 1987 and June 1992, there was a decrease in the total number of businesses operating in most States in the motor vehicle hire industry. Tasmania was the only State to show an increase (6%). The decreases in the other States ranged from 44 per cent in Victoria to 2 per cent in New South Wales.

Data analysis using mean, median, mode and deciles are available as a special data service on request.

For further information, order the publication Motor Vehicle Hire, Australia, (8652.0), or contact Dennis Robson on (03) 615 7634.

Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

- through its bookshops
- by mail order (including subscription)
- by facsimile
- electronically.

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Editor

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(06) 252 6104

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Expected releases over fortnight to 15 November

- 3 Retail Trade, Australia, September 1994 (8501.0; \$11.00)
- 10 The Labour Force, Australia, October 1994, Preliminary (6202.0; \$11.00)
- Average Weekly Earnings, Australia, August 1994, Preliminary (6301.0; \$11.00)
- 11 Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra, September 1994 (6407.0; \$11.00)
- Price Index of Materials Used in Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra, September 1994 (6408.0; \$8.50)

Selected releases: 26 October to 1 November

General

- Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC) — Alphabetic Coding Index, 1994 (1293.0; \$50.00) — *new issue*
- Australian Economic Indicators, November 1994 (1350.0; \$26.00)
- Monthly Summary of Statistics, NSW, October 1994 (1305.1; \$14.50)
- Economic Indicators, NSW, October 1994 (1307.1; \$5.50)
- Monthly Summary of Statistics, Vic., October 1994 (1303.2; \$11.00)
- Monthly Summary of Statistics, Qld, November 1994 (1304.3; \$10.00)
- Monthly Summary of Statistics, WA, October 1994 (1305.5; \$11.00)

Demography

- Causes of Death, Aust., 1993 (3303.0; \$17.50)
- Perinatal Deaths, Aust., 1993 (3304.0; \$15.00) — *final issue*
- Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Aust., August 1994 (3401.0; \$6.50)
- Estimated Resident Population by Age and Sex in Statistical Local Areas, NT, June 1992 and June 1993 (3207.7; \$10.50)

National accounts, Finance and Foreign trade

- Balance of Payments, Aust., September 1994 (5301.0; \$16.50)
- Public Sector Financial Assets and Liabilities, Aust., 30 June 1993 and 1994 (5513.0; \$11.00)
- Cash Management Trusts, Aust., September 1994 (5635.0; \$6.00) — *final issue*

Labour statistics and Prices

- The Labour Force, Aust., September 1994 (6203.0; \$16.50)
- Information Paper: Training and Education Experience, Aust. — Sample File on Magnetic Media, 1993 (6274.0; \$5.00)
- Consumer Price Index, September Qtr 1994 (6401.0; \$12.00)

Agriculture

- Agriculture, NSW, 1992–93 (7113.1; \$47.00)

Manufacturing, Mining, Energy, Service industries, Building and Construction

- Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Preliminary, September 1994 (8301.0; \$11.00)
- Building Approvals, Aust., September 1994 (8731.0; \$13.50)
- Manufacturing Industry, SA, 1991–92 (8221.4; \$16.50)
- Building Approvals, SA, September 1994 (8731.4; \$11.00)
- Manufacturing Industry, NT, 1991–92 (8221.7; \$16.50)
- Building Approvals, NT, September 1994 (8731.7; \$7.00)

Transport

- Motor Vehicle Registrations, Aust., September 1994 (9303.0; \$12.00)
- Motor Vehicle Registrations, Old, September 1994 (9303.3; \$10.50)

The latest — consolidated to 1 November 1994

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| Key national indicators | Period | Units | Latest figure available | | Percentage change (a) on | |
|--|---------------|-----------------|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | | Original | Seasonally adjusted | Previous period | Corresponding period last year |
| National accounts | | | | | | |
| Gross domestic product (GDP(A)) at 1989-90 prices | June qtr 94 | \$m | 99 058 | 100 666 | 0.9 | 4.3 |
| International accounts | | | | | | |
| Balance on current account (b) | September 94 | \$m | -2 434 | -1 809 | 14 | -54 |
| Balance on merchandise trade (b) | " | " | -772 | -452 | 48 | — |
| Balance on goods and services (b) | " | " | -1 159 | -525 | 46 | — |
| Merchandise exports | " | " | 5 289 | 5 312 | -1 | -3 |
| Merchandise imports | " | " | 6 061 | 5 764 | 7 | -7 |
| Net foreign debt | June qtr 94 | \$m | 161 524 | n.a. | 1.9 | -4.3 |
| Net foreign liabilities | " | " | 232 698 | n.a. | -0.2 | 5.2 |
| Consumption and investment | | | | | | |
| Retail turnover at current prices (d) | August 94 | \$m | 8 625.5 | 9 016.8 | 2.1 | 10.7 |
| New capital expenditure at current prices | June qtr 94 | " | 7 284 | 6 994 | 7 | 11.0 |
| New motor vehicle registrations | September 94 | no. | 50 438 | 49 056 | 0.5 | 21.3 |
| Production | | | | | | |
| Manufacturers' sales at 1989-90 prices | March qtr 94 | \$m | 35 184 | 37 572 | 2.3 | 9.9 |
| Dwelling unit approvals | September 94 | no. | 13 884 | 15 047 | -6.9 | 3.6 |
| Building approvals | " | \$m | 2 136 | 2 401 | 19.1 | 13.3 |
| Building work done at 1989-90 prices | June qtr 94 | " | 6 643 | 6 303 | ... | 2.7 |
| Prices | | | | | | |
| Consumer price index (d) | June qtr 94 | 1989-90 = 100.0 | 111.2 | n.a. | 0.7 | 1.7 |
| Articles produced by manufacturing industry | August 94 | 1988-89 = 100.0 | 116.2 | n.a. | 0.0 | 0.7 |
| Materials used in manufacturing industries | " 94 | 1984-85 = 100.0 | 125.6 | n.a. | 0.4 | -1.2 |
| Labour force and demography | | | | | | |
| Employed persons | September 94 | '000 | 8 087.4 | 8 009.9 | 1.0 | 3.9 |
| Participation rate † | " | % | 63.8 | 63.3 | 0.5 | 0.7 |
| Unemployment rate † | " | " | 9.3 | 9.5 | 0.0 | -1.4 |
| Job vacancies (d) | August qtr 94 | '000 | 68.7 | 65.2 | 23.0 | 75.2 |
| Average weekly overtime per employee (d) | " | hours | 1.28 | 1.33 | 0.9 | 10.3 |
| Estimated resident population | March 94 | million | 17.8 | n.a. | 0.3 | 1.0 |
| Short-term overseas visitor arrivals | August 94 | '000 | 265 | 295 | 6.1 | 14.1 |
| Incomes | | | | | | |
| Company profits before income tax | June qtr 94 | \$m | 5 410 | 6 115 | 2.5 | 33.9 |
| Av. weekly earnings, full-time adults; ordinary time | May 94 | \$ | 617.50 | 618.20 | 1.4 | 3.3 |
| Financial markets | | | | | | |
| Interest rates (c) (monthly average) | September 94 | % per annum | 6.10 | n.a. | 0.40 | 1.25 |
| 90-day bank bills † | September 94 | " | 10.35 | n.a. | 1.00 | 3.50 |
| 10-year Treasury bonds † | September 94 | per \$A | 0.7414 | n.a. | 0.1 | 14 |

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (c) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (d) Later figures expected to be released Thursday, 3 November 1994.

NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

Percentage change from same period previous year

| Key State indicators | Period | NSW | Vic. | Qld | SA | WA | Tas. | NT | ACT | Aust. |
|---|--------------|------|------|------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|-------|
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| New capital expenditure* | June qtr 94 | 25.2 | 0.3 | 12.3 | 5.2 | 10.5 | -34.8 | n.a. | n.a. | 16.8 |
| Retail turnover (trend estimate) | August 94 | 9.2 | 7.4 | 8.3 | 5.6 | 6.3 | 3.8 | n.a. | 3.8 | 8.1 |
| New motor vehicle registrations† | September 94 | 30.4 | 17.4 | 17.8 | 15.8 | 11.2 | 27.6 | 25.9 | -10.5 | 20.8 |
| Number of dwelling unit approvals* | September 94 | -9.7 | 16.0 | 15.3 | -21.5 | 28.0 | 59.5 | 41.2 | -24.2 | 3.6 |
| Value of total building work done | June qtr 94 | -1.3 | -0.4 | 9.1 | -6.1 | 23.8 | 14.2 | 42.9 | -2.7 | 3.9 |
| Employed persons* | September 94 | 4.5 | 2.9 | 6.1 | 2.2 | 3.2 | 2.1 | 1.5 | 1.8 | 3.9 |
| Capital city consumer price index | June qtr 94 | 1.5 | 1.7 | 1.6 | 1.9 | 2.2 | 2.7 | 2.2 | 1.5 | 1.7 |
| Av. weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time) | May 94 | 3.9 | 3.6 | 2.6 | 1.8 | 3.0 | 3.2 | 1.2 | 2.6 | 3.5 |
| Population | March qtr 94 | 0.8 | 0.2 | 2.6 | 0.5 | 1.4 | 0.2 | 0.9 | 0.6 | 1.0 |
| Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc. | June qtr 94 | 5.7 | 6.1 | 6.1 | 2.3 | 9.8 | 14.7 | 8.0 | 6.5 | 6.4 |

* Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. † Seasonally adjusted.

Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 7). Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important. The ABS should be acknowledged as the source when reproducing or quoting any part of this publication.

